

Appl. No. : 08/835,732
Filed : April 11, 1997

REMARKS

Claims 1, 16, 17, and 20 have been amended by this paper. Claims 3, 10 and 14 have been cancelled previously. Claims 2, 4-9, 11-13, 14, 18, and 19 remain unchanged by this amendment. Hence, by this paper, claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-13 and 15-20 are presented for further examination.

In the above-identified Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4-5, 7, 11, 15-17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,648,271, to Tsuchiyama, (hereafter "Tsuchiyama"). Claims 6, 9, 12-13 and 18-19 were also rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuchiyama in view of admitted prior art figure 2 as applied to Claims 1 and 3, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,661,578, to Habing, et al. (hereafter "Habing"). Finally, Claim 8 was also rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuchiyama in view of admitted prior art figure 2 as applied to claim and with or without U.S. Patent No. 5,128,781, to Ohno.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the prior art reference must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Applicant respectfully submits that the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest at least one limitation from each of the above independent claims.

Claim 1 as amended recites, among other limitations: "a LCD housing made in a single piece from a single light transmissive material, said material having the same light transmissive characteristics throughout, wherein the transmissive material provides a casing and structural support for handling by a user." Independent Claims 16, 17, and 20, as amended, each recite similar limitations.

Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art fails to teach or suggest at least this limitation. As can be seen in Figure 3B of Tsuchiyama, the transmissive material does not provide structural support for handling by a user. In Tsuchiyama, the transmissive material (32) is an internal part of the display and it does not provide a casing for handling by a user.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that these limitations are not taught or suggested by Ohno. In Ohno, the light introduction plates 3a and 3b are mounted on a upper and lower chassis 6a and 6b. Thus, Ohno does not teach or suggest a single transmissive material that provides a casing and structural support for handling by a user as is claimed.

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Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that these features are not taught or suggested by Habing. Habing was relied upon by the Examiner for suggesting particular light emitting elements.

Since the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest in isolation or in combination at least this limitation, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 16, 17, and 20 are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, since Claims 2, 4-9, 11-13, 15, 18, and 19, each depend on one of these claims, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable for the reasons discussed above and the subject matter of their own limitations.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant has endeavored to address the concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, amendments to the claims for patentability purposes pursuant to statutory sections 102, 103 and/or 112, the reasons therefore, and arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claims that are presented above.


In light of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is specifically requested. If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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